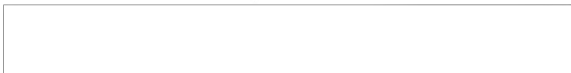




The President's Daily Brief

Sensitive
14 March 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

14 March 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Moscow is increasingly concerned that the West German parliament may reject Chancellor Brandt's Eastern treaties. (Page 1)

Japan

(Page 2)

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North Vietnamese officials indicated a hardening of their position on negotiations with Saigon in recent conversations with the Norwegian ambassador. (Page 3)

Somalia

Soviet
(Page 4)

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The Israelis are building large patrol boats for use in the Red Sea. (Page 5)

King Husayn plans to present his proposal for West Bank autonomy after a peace settlement before Jordan's parliament tomorrow. (Page 6)

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USSR - WEST GERMANY

Moscow is increasingly concerned that West Germany's parliament may reject Brandt's Eastern treaties. The Soviet press has made stinging attacks on the Christian Democrats who oppose the treaties, and has warned of "serious" damage to West Germany if the treaties are defeated.

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Brandt is seeking through the Soviets some tangible concession from the East Germans that will allow him to answer Christian Democratic criticism that his policies have failed to improve the lot of the East German people.

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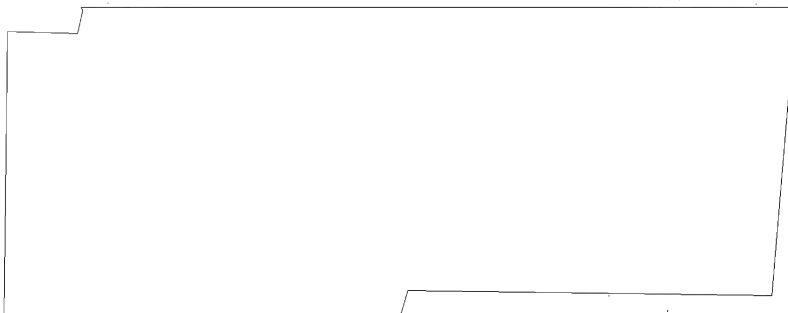
there is evidence that some Soviet leaders, in particular politburo member Shelest, have reservations concerning detente with Bonn. Non-ratification is not likely in itself to cost party chief Brezhnev his job because some of those individuals who might support Shelest on this policy could be Brezhnev's most loyal supporters on other issues. It would, however, make him more cautious toward the detente policies he has been pushing during the last 18 months.

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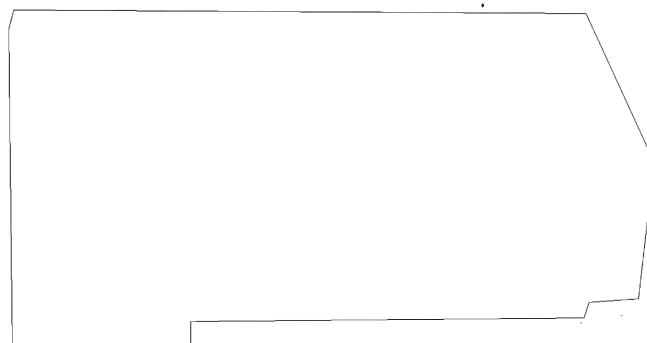
JAPAN - NORTH VIETNAM



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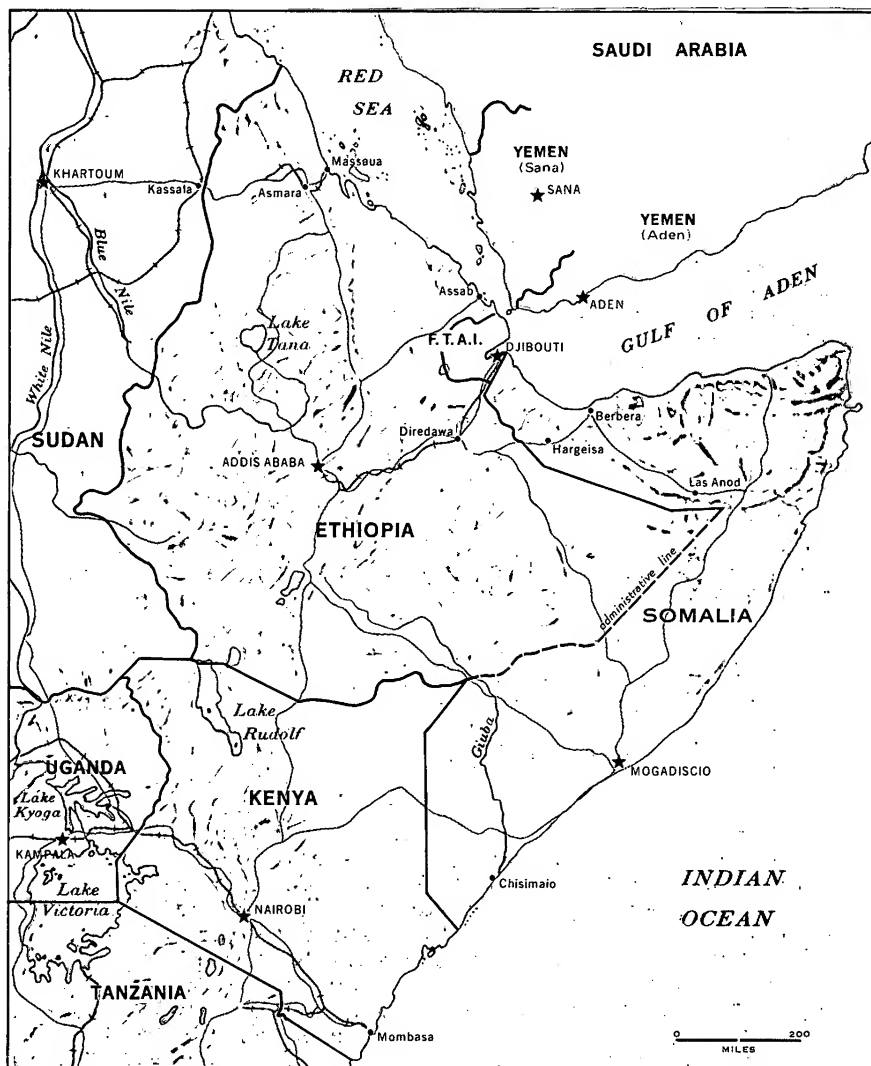
NORTH VIETNAM

Premier Pham Van Dong took a tough stand on the issue of negotiations with the Saigon regime when Norwegian Ambassador P. G. Ravne came down from Peking to present his credentials last week. According to Ravne, Dong said that before the Communists would discuss any political deal with Saigon, the South Vietnamese Government apparatus would have to be "purified" and all "Quislings eliminated." He flatly rejected the notion that Thieu's removal alone might be sufficient to get talks going between the two sides, and he added that this could be conveyed to "Western governments so that they would know" Hanoi's position.

Ravne said that a North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry official virtually acknowledged later that the Premier's formulation represented a hardening of the North Vietnamese demands on a political settlement. The official hinted that there had been differences within the Hanoi leadership on this issue.

Ravne claims he came away from his conversations with the impression that relations between the North Vietnamese and Chinese were "ice cold." He says he got the impression from lower-ranking North Vietnamese and Cambodian officials in Hanoi that the leadership was particularly troubled by China's failure to censure US bombing attacks on the North in the final US-China summit communiqué.

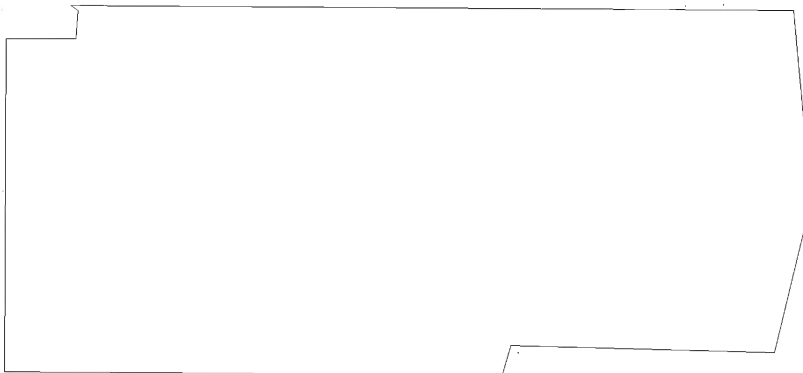
The Premier's reported statements fit with the unbending position he has consistently taken since the US made public its eight-point proposal in January, and his remark that this word could be passed to other Western governments gives his pronouncement an unmistakably official ring.



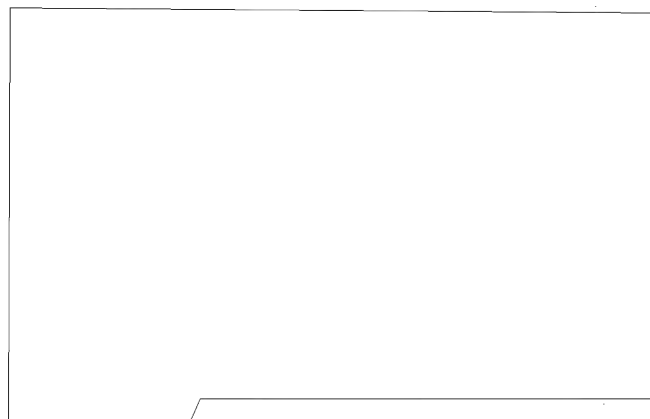
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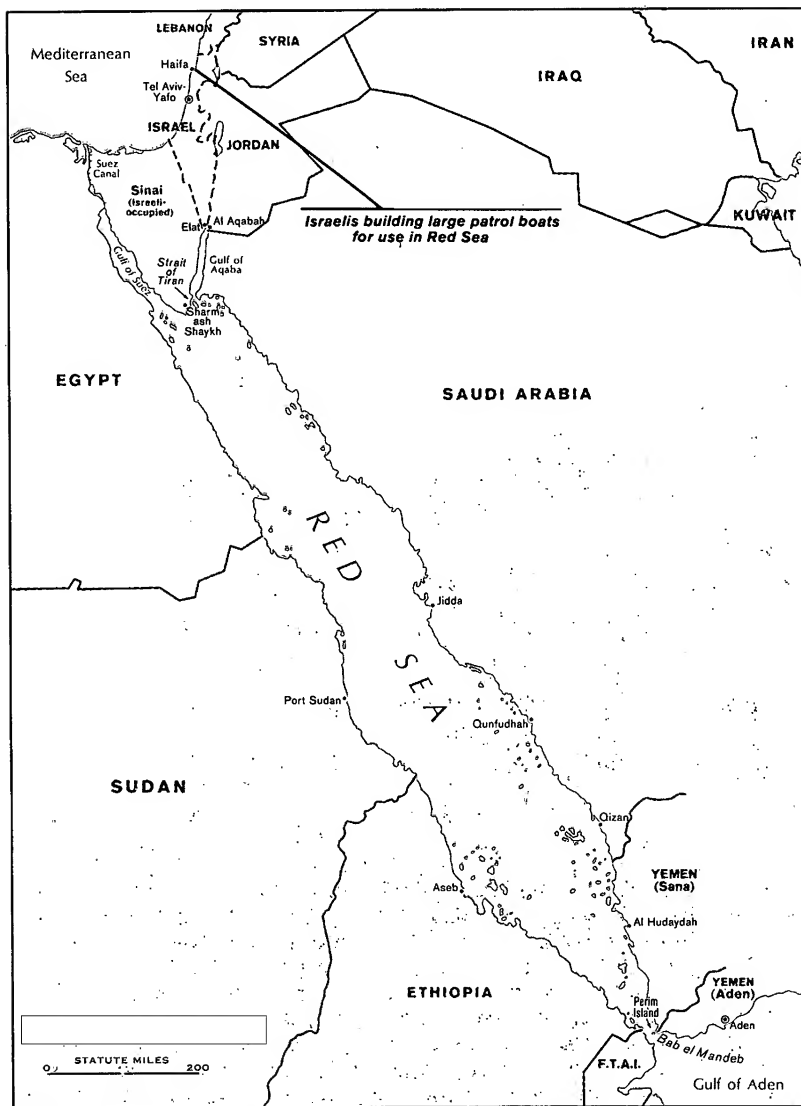


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ISRAEL

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The Israelis are building six large patrol boats for use in the Red Sea [redacted]

[redacted] Two are currently under construction at the Haifa shipyard and are to be commissioned this fall. The Israelis have copied from Saar-class boats purchased from France, but have extended the length to 180 feet and made other modifications to permit them to conduct extended patrols in a hot climate. The boats will be armed with the 11-nm Gabriel anti-ship missile and with 76-mm. guns.

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The new boats will enable Israel to challenge Egypt's current naval superiority in the Red Sea. Israel now has in the area only 12 coastal-size patrol boats equipped with machine guns. Egypt currently maintains in the Red Sea two destroyers, three Komar missile patrol boats, and three PT boats.

The new patrol boats also will allow the Israelis to police the mouth of the Red Sea where Palestinian guerrillas, operating out of Yemen (Aden) attacked an Elat-bound tanker last year.

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JORDAN-ISRAEL

King Husayn has informed Ambassador Brown that he will present his proposal for post-settlement West Bank autonomy to a joint session of the Jordanian Parliament tomorrow.

The King's formula would create a two part Jordanian-Palestinian kingdom. Each region would control its own internal affairs while a national government, under Husayn, would direct foreign policy, the military establishments and other areas of national interest. The new Palestinian state could also include the Gaza Strip.

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Husayn has consulted senior army and intelligence officials as well as Palestinian notables, including West Bank representatives. According to Husayn, the response from the West Bankers was overwhelmingly favorable. He has also sought the endorsement of other Arab governments. Kamal Adham, a Saudi royal adviser and King Faysal's brother-in-law, has informed US officials that while Saudi Arabia did not object to the proposal, he personally doubted that his government would go along. Adham also said that President Sadat, during his visit to Saudi Arabia last week, said he had come to favor a West Bank Palestinian entity.

Husayn's public presentation of his proposal, which he first raised with US officials in early February, demonstrates his determination to retain at least nominal control over the West Bank in any final settlement. A major difficulty with his plan is its location of the capital of the Palestinian state in East Jerusalem. Israel is unyielding in its insistence that Jerusalem is Israel's capital and can never again be divided.

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INDIA

The ruling Congress Party's sweep in state elections last week has given Prime Minister Gandhi power surpassing even that exercised by her father in his heyday. The results in 16 of India's 21 states indicate that the party has consolidated its position nationwide, even in the few remaining strongholds of opposition parties. It appears to have solid majorities in nearly all the states. In West Bengal, incomplete returns indicate that the Congress will trounce its arch-rival in the state, the Communist Party/Marxist.

The rival "Organization Congress" has lost its credibility as an opposition force. The two challengers on the right, the Jana Sangh and the Swatantra have suffered setbacks in the several states where they have cultivated a marginal following over the years. At the other end of the political spectrum, the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India and the internationally independent Communist Party/Marxist have won only minimal representation.

Since assuming the prime ministership in January 1966, Mrs. Gandhi has steadily maneuvered politicians and parties to her advantage, and in the process has seemingly been able to reverse a trend in the 1960s toward devolution of power from New Delhi to the states. She has been aided by a string of record crops produced by ample monsoon rains and the "green revolution," a growing sense of Indian nationalism, and, most recently, the military victory over Pakistan.

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USSR-Egypt

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